

### **Listing of the Claims**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A modular latch assembly, comprising:

at least one ~~[[a]]~~ control element having a first state in which the at least one control element has a first path of motion and a second state in which the at least one control element has a second path of motion;

a pawl having latched and unlatched positions, the pawl being movable from the latched position to the unlatched position by the at least one control element in its first state but not in its second state; and

~~at least two control element positions, each one of the at least two control element positions dimensioned to receive the control element, the latch assembly having different operational modes corresponding to the control element occupying each one of the at least two control element positions, the control element occupying a first one of the at least two control element positions.~~

a housing receiving the at least one control element in at least one of a first housing position and a second housing position corresponding to at least three operational modes.

2. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the latch assembly has at least two of at least three operational modes:~~ a first operational mode corresponds to the at least ~~in which the latch has one control element occupying the first housing control element position,~~ a second operational mode corresponds to the at least ~~in which the latch has one control element occupying~~ ~~[[a]]~~ the second housing control element position, and a third operational mode corresponds to the at least one ~~in which the latch has two control elements element occupying both the first and second control element positions.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1, further comprising a first input element coupled to the at least one control element, the first input element also coupled to a user-operable device external to the modular latch assembly for actuating the at least one control element via the first input element.

4. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim ~~[[2]]~~ 3, ~~wherein the control element is a first control element, the modular latch assembly further comprising a first input element coupled to a first user operable device, the first input element also coupled to the first control element,~~ wherein the at least one control element includes a first control element and a second control element and the first input element is interchangeably connectable to [[a]] the first control element and the second control element.

5. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a second input element coupled to a second user-operable device, the second input element also coupled to the second control element, the second input element ~~interechangeable~~ interchangeably connectable to the first control element.

6. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 4, further comprising a second input element coupled to a second user-operable device, the second input element also coupled to the first control element, wherein the first and second input elements are movable substantially independently with respect to one another so that actuation of one of the first and second input elements does not create substantial movement of another of the first and second input elements.

7. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 3, further comprising:

an engagement element coupled to the at least one control element in the first state and decoupled from the at least one control element in the second state;

a manual override having: a second input element and a second user-operable device coupled to the second input element, the second input element also coupled to the engagement element for movement of the engagement element into and out of coupled relationship with the at least one control element.

8. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 7, further comprising a bell crank coupled between the second input element and the engagement element.

9. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 7, wherein the first and second input elements are movable substantially independently with respect to one another to permit actuation of one of the first and second input elements without substantial movement of another of the first and second input elements.

10. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim [[2]] 1, further comprising[[(:)] a first input element coupled to a first user-operable device, the first input element also selectively and interchangeably coupled to one of the pawl and the at least one control element.

11. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 10, wherein the at least one control element ~~is a first control element~~, includes a first control element and a second control element and the modular latch assembly further ~~comprising a second control element~~; and comprises a second input element coupled to a second user-operable device, the second input element also selectively and interchangeably coupled to one of the pawl, the first control element, and the second control element.

12. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

an engagement element coupled to the at least one control element in the first state and decoupled from the at least one control element in the second state;

a manual override having: a second input element and a second user-operable device coupled to the second input element, the second input element also coupled to the engagement element for movement of the engagement element into and out of coupled relationship with the at least one control element.

13. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 12, further comprising a bell crank coupled between the second input element and the engagement element.

14. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first and second input elements are movable substantially independently with respect to one another to permit actuation of one of the first and second input elements without substantial movement of another of the first and second input elements.

15. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an input element coupled to the at least one control element, the input element also coupled to a user-operable device external to the latch assembly for actuating the at least one control element via the input element.

16. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 15, wherein the input element is one of a cable and a rod.

17. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one control element is movable into camming contact with a surface of the pawl in the first path of motion of the at least one control element.

18. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a link coupled to the at least one control element at a first end of the link and to the pawl at a second end of the link, and wherein the pawl is movable between [[its]] the latched and the unlatched positions via the link and the at least one control element in [[its]] the first state.

19. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a bell crank having a cam surface, the bell crank mounted to contact the at least one control element in [[its]] the first path of motion.

20. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim ~~20~~19, wherein the at least one control element [[is]] includes a first control element and a second control element, ~~the modular latch assembly further comprising a~~ the second control element having a first state in which the second control element has a first path of motion and a second state in which the second control element has a second path of motion~~[[;]], and the modular latch assembly further~~ comprises an engagement element coupled to the second control element in the first state and decoupled from the second control element in the second state, the bell crank coupled to the engagement element for movement of the engagement element into and out of coupled relationship with the second control element in response to camming motion of the first control element against the bell crank.

21. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a bell crank having a cam surface, the bell crank mounted to contact the pawl during movement thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising:

an engagement element coupled to the at least one control element in the first state and decoupled from the at least one control element in the second state;

a bell crank; and

an input element coupled to a user-operable device and to the bell crank, the user-operable device movable to rotate the bell crank and to move the engagement element into and out of coupled relationship with the at least one control element.

23. (Original) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 22, wherein the input element is movable substantially independently of pawl and control element movement to permit pawl and control element movement without substantial movement of the input element.

24. (Currently Amended) The modular latch assembly as claimed in claim 1, further comprising at least one bias element coupled to the at least one control element for biasing the at least one control element toward an at-rest position in the latch assembly.

Claims 25-36 (Cancelled).